History 258RB
Imperial Russia
Fall 2009, WF, 4-5:15pm, Nicely 414

Professor Paul du Quenoy
office hours: WF 1-2pm and 3:15-4pm; College Hall 444
phone: 01-350000, ext. 4189
e-mail: pd05@aub.edu.lb

Winston Churchill famously called Russia “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” This course will seek to demystify Russia and lay bare the events, problems, opportunities, and personalities that brought this fascinating country from the margins of world affairs to great power status, Eurasian hegemony, relative decline, defeat in World War I and catastrophic revolution in 1917.

Required Reading:


Mikhail Lermontov, *A Hero of Our Time*

Leo Tolstoy, *Hadji Murad*

Film:


Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1) Relate the major events of Russian History from the beginning of Russian statehood in the ninth century to the Revolution of 1917
2) Develop a familiarity with Russian literary and cultural traditions as they were expressed and experienced in the Imperial era.
3) Assess the nature of Russia’s place along its periphery and in the world at large.

Grades:

Your final grade will be calculated from your performance in class, your score on the midterm and cumulative final examinations, and the quality of your required paper.

Class participation will count for 10 percent of your final grade. Noticeable absence, frequent tardiness, cases of unexcused early departure, rudeness, and disruptive behavior will seriously harm your score in this category. Absolute attendance, frequent participation, doing all required
readings, making incisive comments, and good manners will seriously help it. Anything said in class, furthermore, can appear on your examination.

Mobile phone use in a polite, interactive atmosphere is distracting, discourteous, and unnecessary. ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS AND ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE CONFISCATION IF USED. Text messaging is also very annoying and strictly prohibited. The instructor realizes that mobile phones may be useful in the event of an emergency. If you anticipate an emergency on a particular class day, stay home.

The midterm (November 13) and cumulative final examination (TBA) will each count for 30 percent of your final grade. PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO OPPORTUNITY to make up this examination unless I am informed of your absence IN ADVANCE. If you do not inform me of your absence IN ADVANCE, you will automatically receive a failing grade. Makeup examinations will in any case be COMPLETELY DIFFERENT from the examination given to the rest of the class, and so there will be no advantage in taking one after everyone else.

The 5-7 page required paper, due on JANUARY 15, will account for 30 percent of the final grade. The paper will be an interpretative review of Lermontov’s A Hero of Our Time and Tolstoy’s Hadji Murad, required reading for the course. Your work MUST address one of the themes listed on the final page of the syllabus.

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other type of academic dishonesty is unacceptable at AUB and will result in a failing grade.

Topics:

Week I: October 7 and 9

   Introduction and Pre-History

Week II: October 14 and 16

   Russia: From Early Slavs to Empire
   
   History of Russia, 1-38

Week III: October 21 and 24

   Adjusting to Imperial Greatness
   
   History of Russia, 39-56, 80-97
   Lermontov, A Hero of Our Time

Week IV: October 28 and 31
Relative Decline and the Genesis of Reform

*History of Russia, 57-79*

Tolstoy, *Hadji Murad*

Week V: November 4 and 6

Alexander II and the Great Reforms, 1855-1881

*History of Russia, 98-141*

Alexander II’s Manifesto on the Abolition of Serfdom (February 1861): [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/emancipation%20manifesto.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/emancipation%20manifesto.htm)

Week VI: November 11 and 13

Autocracy, Modernization, and Discontent 1881-1905

*History of Russia, 142-214*

Konstantin Pobedonostsev, selected writings: [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/pobedonotsev.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/pobedonotsev.htm)

Vladimir Lenin, excerpts from “What Is To Be Done?” (1902): [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Lenin--chto%20delat.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Lenin--chto%20delat.htm)

**November 13: MIDTERM**

Week VII: November 18 and 20

Class will view David Lean’s *Doctor Zhivago* (1965)

Week VIII: November 25 and 27

War and Revolution, 1904-1907

*History of Russia, 215-235*

Workers’ Petition of “Bloody Sunday” (January 9, 1905): [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/bloodysunday.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/bloodysunday.htm)

Nicholas II’s Manifesto of October 17, 1905:
http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/october%20manifesto.htm

The Fundamental Laws (April 1906):
Available at http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dml0www/Russhist.HTML

Week IX: December 2 and 4

From Revolution to World War: Domestic Picture

*History of Russia*, 236-249

Week X: December 9 and 11

From Revolution to World War: International Picture

*History of Russia*, 249-254

Durnovo Memorandum Warning of a General European War (February 1914):
http://www.stetson.edu/~psteeyes/classes/durnovo.html

Week XI: December 16 and 18

**December 18: NO CLASS (Hijra New Year)**

CLASS WILL CEASE FROM DECEMBER 18 TO JANUARY 12 FOR CHRISTMAS.

Week XII: January 13 and 15

Disaster: Russia in World War I and the February Revolution

*History of Russia*, 255-292

The Abdication Manifesto of Nicholas II (March 1917):
http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/1917/abnick2.html

Vladimir Lenin’s April Theses (April 1917):
http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/apriltheses.htm

**PAPERS DUE: JANUARY 15**

Week XIV: January 20 and 22
Red October: The October Revolution

*History of Russia, 292-317*

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918)
http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/1918/brestlitovsk.html

Soviet Constitution of 1918:

**January 22: FINAL EXAM**

**Paper Topics**

In reference to both Lermontov’s *A Hero of Our Time* and Tolstoy’s *Hadji Murad*, you must craft an interpretive essay around one of the themes listed below. **NO INTERNET SOURCES!!**

- On Being A Man
- On Heroism
- On the Point of Life